**i·de·ol·o·gy**

/ˌīdēˈäləjē/

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| Noun   |  | | --- | | 1. A system of ideas and ideals, esp. one that forms the basis of economic or political policy 2. The ideas and manner of thinking of a group, social class, or individual | |

**Political Spectrum of Ideology**

The political **left** usually defines itself as: **LIBERALS**

* Liberals embrace freedom of choice in *personal matters*, but support central decision-making in *economics*.
* They want the government to help the disadvantaged in the name of fairness.
* Leftists tolerate social diversity, but work for what they might describe as “economic equality.
* Other themes:

Protect the environment

Peaceful foreign policy

Promote fair labor

The political **right** usually defines itself as: **CONSERVATIVES**

* Favor freedom of choice on *economic issues*, but want official standards in *personal matters*.
* They tend to support the free market. (laissez-faire)
* Frequently want the government to defend the community from what they see as threats to morality or to the traditional family structure.
* Other themes:

Support a strong military

Oppose big government and high taxes

Endorse strong law enforcement.

**Liberal Tags Conservative Tags**

Conservative

Liberal

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| **Liberal** | **Issue** | **Conservative** |
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| **Liberal** | **Issue** | **Conservative** |
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